

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-17, 19-21 and 23-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 25 is amended, and claim 26 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendment incorporates allowable subject matter into an independent claim; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowance of claims 1, 2, 6-17, 19-21, 23 and 24, and allowable subject matter in claim 26. By this Amendment, claim 26 is cancelled, and the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 26 is incorporated into independent claim 25.

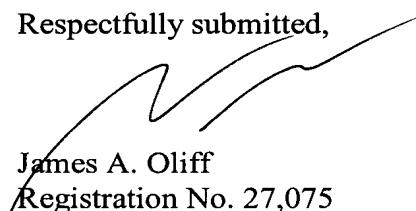
The Office Action rejects claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,842,412 to Ushiyama in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0090981 to Yokoi.

As discussed above, claim 25 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 26. Therefore, the rejection is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:KXH/amt

Date: September 17, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--